

MARCH 27, 1978

ACADEMY AWARDS PREVIEW
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: ON MONDAY APRIL THIRD THE AMERICAN FILM INDUSTRY AND MOVIE FANS AROUND THE WORLD WILL FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON A THREE POINT NINE KILOGRAM GOLD STATUETTE WITH THE UNLIKELY NAME OF "OSCAR." OSCAR, OF COURSE, IS THE SYMBOL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES AND ITS ANNUAL AWARDS FOR FILM EXCELLENCE. THIS YEAR MARKS THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACADEMY AWARDS AND WITH A LOOK AT THE COMPETITION, HERE IS A REPORT FROM VOA WEST COAST CORRESPONDENT MATTHEW SCHNEIDER.

VOICE: THE YEAR WAS 1929: VATICAN CITY BECAME AN INDEPENDENT STATE; RICHARD BYRD PILOTED A PLANE OVER THE THE SOUTH POLE; THE NEW YORK STOCK MARKET CRASHED; ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S "A FAREWELL TO ARMS" WAS PUBLISHED AND IN CALIFORNIA TWO HUNDRED MOVIE INDUSTRY LUMINARIES GATHERED IN THE BALLROOM OF A HOLLYWOOD HOTEL TO CELEBRATE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES -- AND TO PRESENT THE FIRST ACADEMY AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN FILMING.

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THE FIRST OSCARS FOR ACTING WENT TO EMIL JANNINGS AND JANET GAYNOR. "WINGS," AN ACTION-PACKED SILENT FILM ABOUT WORLD WAR ONE GOT THE FIRST AWARD FOR BEST FILM OF THE YEAR AND FRANK BORZAGE (PRON: BOR-ZAYGHEE) RECEIVED THE OSCAR FOR BEST ACHIEVEMENT IN DIRECTING.

IN HIS HISTORY OF THE ACADEMY AWARDS ROBERT OSBORNE WRITES: "IT WAS A RELAXED AND UNSPECTACULAR EVENING, SLIGHTED BY LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, AND TOTALLY IGNORED BY THE NATIONAL PRESS AND RADIO."

VOICE: THIS YEAR AN ESTIMATED 250-MILLION TELEVISION VIEWERS IN
(CONT'D) ABOUT 45 COUNTRIES WILL WITNESS THE ACADEMY AWARDS' NOW-
FAMILIAR RITUAL LIVE VIA SATELLITE OR BY VIDEOTAPE REPLAY.
NOW, HERE IS FOUR TIME ACADEMY PRESIDENT, WALTER MIRISCH.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- MIRISH

"I THINK IT WILL BE A VERY EXCITING SHOW. THERE IS
CERTAINLY MATERIAL IN THIS ANNIVERSARY TO SUPPLY MARVELOUS
FEELINGS OF NOSTALGIA AND ACCOMPLISHMENT, LOOKING BACK
OVER A REALLY STIMULATING AND EXCITING PAST. AND REALLY
ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO A VERY CHALLENGING AND HOPEFUL FUTURE."

VOICE: THE CATEGORY OF BEST PICTURE HAS TRADITIONALLY OCCUPIED THE
SPOTLIGHT IN THE COMPETITION FOR THE OSCARS. BUT BECAUSE
OF THE GROWING IMPACT OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN THE U-S
AND SEVERAL ESPECIALLY STRONG PERFORMANCES BY ACTRESSES,
1977 HAS BEEN CALLED, "HOLLYWOOD'S YEAR OF THE WOMAN."
AS A RESULT MOST OF THIS YEAR'S INTEREST IS FOCUSED ON
THE CATEGORY "BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS IN A LEADING
ROLE."

FILM VETERANS ANNE BANCROFT AND SHIRLEY MACLAINE
WERE NOMINATED FOR THEIR STRIKING PERFORMANCES IN "THE
TURNING POINT," A FILM THAT USES THE WORLD OF BALLET TO
EXAMINE CRITICAL CHOICES WHICH PEOPLE MUST MAKE ABOUT
THEIR LIVES.

MISS BANCROFT PLAYS AN AGING PRIMA BALLERINA, MISS
MACLAINE IS HER CLOSEST FRIEND WHO YEARS EARLIER ABANDONED
A PROMISING CAREER IN THE DANCE TO GET MARRIED AND RAISE
A FAMILY, AND WONDERS IF SHE MADE THE RIGHT DECISION.

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VOICE: THE FIFTH FILM NOMINATED FOR BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR IS
(CONT'D)

"STAR WARS," THE SPACE FANTASY WHICH FEATURED SOME OF THE
MOST EXCITING SPECIAL EFFECTS EVER BROUGHT TO THE SCREEN.

BESIDES WOODY ALLEN AND RICHARD DREYFUSS, OTHER NOMINEES
FOR BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE ARE:

JOHN TRAVOLTA FOR "SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER" A FILM THAT USES
THE PHENOMENON OF THE DISCO (DANCE CLUB) TO EXPLORE THE
LIFESTYLES AND AMBITIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN A WORKING CLASS
NEIGHBORHOOD OF NEW YORK...

MARCELLO MASTROIANNI FOR "A SPECIAL DAY," A ROMANCE BETWEEN
TWO LONELY PEOPLE IN PRE-WAR ITALY...

AND RICHARD BURTON FOR HIS ROLE IN "EQUUS," A FILM ABOUT
A PSYCHIATRIST WHO FACES THE EMPTINESS OF HIS OWN LIFE
WHILE TREATING AN EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED TEENAGER.

LOS ANGELES TIMES ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, CHARLES CHAMPLAIN,
SEES THE ACADEMY AWARDS AS MORE THAN A VEHICLE FOR
RECOGNIZING THE MOST TALENTED MOVIEMAKERS EACH YEAR. HE
SAYS THE AWARDS' GREATEST IMPORTANCE, TODAY, IS AT THE BOX
OFFICE.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- CHAMPLAIN

"IT USED TO BE SOME YEARS AGO THEY SAID AN ACADEMY AWARD
WAS WORTH AN ADDITIONAL ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN RENTAL
REVENUE TO A FILM. I WOULD THINK THAT'S NOW CONSERVATIVE.
I WOULD GUESS THAT AN ACADEMY AWARD FILM DOES A LOT MORE
BUSINESS BECAUSE OF THE ACADEMY AWARD. AND PROBABLY THE
BIGGER (MORE EXPENSIVE) THE FILM TO BEGIN WITH, THE BIGGER
THE INCREMENT THERE IS BECAUSE OF THE ACADEMY AWARD ATTENTION
SO THEY'RE IMPORTANT THAT WAY. THEY'RE IMPORTANT IN TERMS
OF CAREERS. I THINK THAT ACTORS ARE PROBABLY MORE VALUABLE
IN TERMS OF CONTRACTS AFTER THEY'VE HAD EVEN A NOMINATION --
CERTAINLY AN ACADEMY AWARD. SO IT HAD THAT KIND OF CAREER
IMPORTANCE. BUT THE PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE IS AT THE BOX
OFFICE."

VOICE: FINANCIALLY, 1977 WAS THE BEST YEAR IN THE HISTORY OF THE MOVIES...MORE FILMS MADE MORE MONEY THAN EVER BEFORE.

HOWARD W. KOTCH, THE PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES TALKED TO VOA ABOUT THE ROLE THE ACADEMY HAS PLAYED IN THAT SUCCESS.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- KOTCH

"I THINK THE IMPACT OF THE ACADEMY IN THE LAST YEARS, IN THE LAST TEN YEARS, THE PEOPLE HAVE REALLY LOOKED TO THE ACADEMY SAYING, 'IF THE ACADEMY THINKS IT'S GOOD IT MUST BE GOOD.' AND THIS LAST YEAR, IN '77, THE FILMS WERE THE BEST I THINK WE'VE HAD IN YEARS. AND THE REAL MEANING OF THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES -- ARTS, OBVIOUSLY IN PICTURES LIKE "JULIA" AND "THE TURNING POINT," SCIENCES IN "STAR WARS" AND "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND, " THE TECHNOLOGY AND THE SCIENCES THAT MADE THOSE FILMS (POSSIBLE) COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN MADE YEARS AGO. IT'S BEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPED TO SUCH A FINE ART, THE TRICKERY OF MAKING FILMS. OF COURSE THE ARTS, "JULIA," AND "THE TURNING POINT -- ARE REALLY ARTISTIC SUCCESSES. IN THE OLD DAYS THEY USED TO SAY, 'WELL AN ARTS PICTURE ISN'T GOING TO DO BUSINESS, IT'S TOO ARTSY, AND IT WILL ONLY REACH A CERTAIN (LIMITED) AUDIENCE.' WELL THESE TWO PICTURES HAVE REACHED THE GENERAL AUDIENCE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AND I THINK THE ACADEMY, BECAUSE WE RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE, WE RECOGNIZE ACHIEVEMENT, MAKES PEOPLE WHO GO TO THE MOVIES SAY, 'IF THE ACADEMY PUTS A STAMP OF APPROVAL ON IT, THEN IT MUST BE GREAT."

VOICE: AND ON MONDAY MIGHT THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES WILL DO JUST THAT... PUT ITS STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THE BEST PICTURES AND PERFORMERS OF 1977.

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